

## Minimally Invasive Techniques Defined

- **Laparoscopy**--a procedure whereby a tube with a light and a camera lens at the end (laparoscope) is inserted into the *abdominal cavity* to examine organs; check for abnormalities or perform operations using a minimally invasive approach.
- **Endoscopy**--a procedure in which a small, flexible tube with a light and a camera lens at the end (endoscope) are inserted into the *digestive tract* to examine these organs of the digestive tract (stomach, small intestine, and colon).
- **Thoracoscopy**-- a procedure in which a small, flexible tube with a light and a camera lens at the end (thoroscope) is inserted into the *chest cavity* to examine or perform operations on the heart, lungs, esophagus, or other organs in the chest.
- **Arthroscopy**--with the use of an endoscope, surgeons can look at the interior of a *joint*. This technique is most often used to inspect and surgically correct the inside of the knee joint.
- **Bronchoscopy**--the examination of the bronchi (the main airways of the *lungs*) using a flexible tube (bronchoscope). Bronchoscopy helps to evaluate and diagnose lung disease, diagnose blockages, obtain samples of tissue or fluid, and help remove foreign bodies.
- **Cystoscopy**-- the examination of the inside of the *urethra and bladder cavity* with a small, flexible tube with a light and a camera lens at the end (endoscope).
- **Gastroscopy**-- the examination of the lining of the *stomach* with a small, flexible tube with a light and a camera lens at the end (endoscope).
- **Laryngoscopy**-- the inspection of the larynx (voice box) with a small, flexible tube with a light and a camera lens at the end (endoscope).
- **Sigmoidoscopy**-- the examination of the *rectum and sigmoid colon* with a small, flexible tube with a light and a camera lens at the end (endoscope).
- **Colonoscopy**-- the examination of the entire *colon* with a small, flexible tube with a light and a camera lens at the end (endoscope).
- **Robotic Surgery**-- the performance of minimally invasive operations with the assistance of 3D high-definition camera and precise instruments which are remotely controlled by the surgeon.



*The nation's children's hospital*